

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 739

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Tom Hopkins upon receiving the Belz-Lipman Holocaust Educator of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly honor those outstanding educators who endeavor to educate and inform the minds of Tennessee's students on subjects of great historical significance; and

WHEREAS, Tom Hopkins is one such estimable educator who recently received the Belz-Lipman Holocaust Educator of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, sponsored by the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, this prestigious honor recognizes exceptional educators in the field of Holocaust education, educators who seek to remind their students that prejudice, hatred, and violence leads to the destruction of a humane society; and

WHEREAS, along with two other distinguished Tennessee teachers, Mr. Hopkins will receive his award on the "State Day of Remembrance" in April of 2012 near a living memorial to the survivors and martyrs of the Holocaust on the grounds of the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, as part of this illustrious honor, Mr. Hopkins will receive a \$1,500 award to develop new curriculum, purchase resources, or attend training sessions. He hopes to use a significant portion of the funds to transport students to conferences and special events where they will be able to hear survivors and liberators tell their stories in person; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Hancock County, Mr. Hopkins graduated from Hancock High School in 1990; and

WHEREAS, he holds a degree in history from Carson-Newman College, a master's degree in education from Milligan College, and an Educational Specialist degree from Lincoln Memorial University; and

WHEREAS, Tom Hopkins began his outstanding tenure as a teacher sixteen years ago and presently focuses his singular skills and expertise on teaching United States and World History in Sneedville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins, whose great-uncle was a liberator during World War II, has been interested in studying the Holocaust since his youth; and

WHEREAS, an innovative and inspiring leader in education, Tom Hopkins incorporates the Holocaust studies into his courses to ensure that those stories are not forgotten and to teach his students that every life is precious; and

WHEREAS, this thoughtful and dedicated professional encourages his students to think about the use and abuse of power as well as the roles and responsibilities of individuals, organizations, and nations when confronted with human rights violations; and

WHEREAS, in addition to positively influencing young lives, Tom Hopkins has also served his country with the courage and conviction of a true patriot. He has been a member of the Tennessee Air National Guard for twenty years and currently holds the rank of Master Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Tom Hopkins is most grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife, Mary; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tom Hopkins has earned the respect and admiration of his community through his meritorious service and his dedication to his students while exuding a tireless enthusiasm and a willingness to try new and innovative methods in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, Mr. Hopkins is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tom Hopkins epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that that we honor and congratulate Tom Hopkins upon receiving the Belz-Lipman Holocaust Educator of the Year Award, commend his exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.